

and restore the environment of the San Francisco Bay.

In 2007, Ms. Olds made national news when she protested the destruction of a grove of oak trees to construct a sports training facility next to UC Berkeley's Memorial Stadium. Although she was 87 years old, Ms. Olds, along with former Mayor Shirley Dean and Save the Bay founder Sylvia McLaughlin, climbed into an 80-foot-high tree to prevent it from being cut down.

Ms. Olds was known for her humor and lively spirit. She often made jokes to her colleagues that they referred to as "Bettyisms." She was an outspoken Council member, unafraid to take on opposing views, and was known for her pragmatic approach to local policymaking. Ms. Olds was adored by many and was greeted by a cheering crowd when she walked into the Council Chambers on the day of her retirement in 2008.

That same year, Ms. Olds was voted "Best Politician" by East Bay Express readers; and in 2014, a path in the Berkeley hills, connecting Sterling Avenue and Whitaker Avenue was named in her honor.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, it is my honor to commend the life and achievements of Ms. Betty Olds. I offer my sincere gratitude to Ms. Olds for her activism and civic leadership, and for the profound legacy she has left in the East Bay community. I also offer my condolences to Ms. Olds' family and friends as they cope with this immeasurable loss and join together to celebrate Ms. Olds' life.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

#### HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, last weekend we recognized National Suicide Prevention Week in Northern Virginia.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter hosted their 10th annual signature fundraising event, Out of the Darkness on Saturday, September 16th in Fairfax County, Virginia. Over the past ten years, Out of the Darkness has been vital to the rehabilitation of the human spirit here in Northern Virginia, and has been an integral part of the changing attitude towards suicide prevention and mental health awareness, allowing individuals from all backgrounds and stages of grief to come together in support of each other. The success of this year's walk, bringing together over 860 attendees and raising over \$90,000, attests to the meaningful impact of this chapter in support of Northern Virginian neighbors and their families.

We have lost 1,122 precious lives, perhaps more, due to suicide in the last 12 months in Virginia, including children and veterans. The National Capital Area chapter's extensive work in providing community resources, including crisis numbers for the Veteran Combat Call Center, Veteran's Crisis Line, Suicide Prevention Line, and a texting option, have im-

mensely benefited those who are seeking immediate assistance and support. These services are crucial, and especially helpful to those who are fearful in seeking assistance, and I thank you for all your efforts in supporting these programs.

Out of the Darkness was supported by a variety of partners in prevention from across Fairfax County that shared resources to people and their families in various stages of grief, including the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid and the Department, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Virginia Professional Firefighters & Paramedics—IAFF Local 2068, IAFF Financial Corporation, Fairfax County Employee Advisory Council, Fairfax County Live Well Program, Interstate Van Lines, Shirley Contracting, 29 Diner Restaurants, JV's Restaurant, Austin Grill, Everymind.org, Trevor Project, Divine Elements Healing Home, Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychological Services, Abiding Hope Counseling Services, Yava Yoga, David J. Cobb Foundation, Youth for Tomorrow and many other local community businesses and elected officials.

I thank them again for working to support the lives of Fairfax County families as well as those in the surrounding region. I am pleased to represent the National Capital Area chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its partners in the 10th District, and I wish them the best as they continue to bring awareness to suicide prevention and behavioral health.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Virginia's Tenth Congressional District, I ask that you join me in recognizing the positive impact of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention National Capital Area chapter Out of the Darkness Community Walk these past ten years.

#### HONORING MR. JOE PICARD

#### HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joe Picard for his service in the 65th Infantry Regiment, the "Borinqueneers." The 65th Infantry Regiment was the largest and longest-standing segregated Latino military unit in our country's history, and the Borinqueneers service in the face of discrimination led Congress to award these veterans the well-deserved Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

The Borinqueneers trace their history to 1898, when Congress authorized the creation of a military unit in Puerto Rico. For more than a century, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment served honorably in our Armed Services, displaying valor and distinction in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In fact, the Borinqueneers are credited with firing the first American shots in the First World War after stopping a German supply ship from leaving San Juan Bay in 1915.

Throughout both World Wars, the Borinqueneers defended the Panama Canal

Zone, and some members of the regiment served in North Africa and Central Europe during World War II. The regiment became a key force during the Korean War after distinguishing itself during the Operation PORTREX military exercise. Over 2,700 Borinqueneers earned Purple Hearts during the Korean War, and some Borinqueneers led the last regimental bayonet assault in U.S. military history.

Despite their honorable service by thousands, the Borinqueneers faced segregation and regular discrimination in the Armed Forces. Our country owes these veterans our thanks, and we must remember the story of the Borinqueneers as role models for national service.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Picard served our country in the 65th Infantry Regiment during the Korean War despite the danger and discrimination that the Borinqueneers faced. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### RECOGNIZING KEMAL PASAMEHMETOGLU FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AT THE IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2017*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Kemal Pasamehmetoglu for his leadership at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). For the past five and a half years, Dr. Pasamehmetoglu has served as the Associate Laboratory Director for Nuclear Science & Technology at INL.

Dr. Pasamehmetoglu has been instrumental in supporting the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy in developing the roadmap and setting national research and development priorities. His vision and passion for nuclear energy has been a huge asset to INL, the Office of Nuclear Energy, and the nation.

During his tenure, Kemal traveled the globe serving in leadership positions in multi-national collaborative efforts. He enhanced INL's reputation nationally and internationally as a groundbreaking laboratory for nuclear energy research and development.

Most recently, Kemal led the national effort to develop the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative and served as its first National Director. The GAIN initiative provides the nuclear community with access to the technical, regulatory, and financial support necessary to move innovative nuclear energy technologies toward commercialization while ensuring the continued safe, reliable, and economic operation of the existing nuclear fleet.

Kemal has accepted a new position at INL as the Executive Director of the Versatile Fast Neutron Source Research and Development Initiative. A fast reactor would be groundbreaking in providing next generation nuclear fuel testing capabilities.

Kemal holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Central Florida and has more than 30 years of research engineering experience within the national laboratory system.